

AMERICAN CHESTNUT NOW NEAR EXTERMINATION

The problem of quickly using up in the next few years the chestnut trees growing on the 33,000,000 acres of south Appalachian woods is confronting the U. S. Forest Service and the forestry departments of the various states today. Dr. G. F. Gravat and R. P. Marshall, forest pathologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimate that 80 per cent. of all the chestnut trees in more than half of the south Appalachian region will be blighted by 1930. By 1935 it is believed that nine-tenths of forest area will have passed that stage.

Because the lumber shortage is already being felt in the United States, owners of chestnut trees are urged by ^{the} department to utilize their timber before the rotting that follows the blight has caused heavy losses. Tests made by the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory have shown that the blight alone does not impair the strength or durability of the wood. But like a tree ringed with an axe, a blight-killed chestnut when left standing is soon rotted by the wood-decaying fungi that gain a foot hold in the dead tree.

The survey of the blighted area which was begun in 1924 and is still going on has shown that the fatal infection has now reached the southern limit of the commercial chestnut area. No practical control is known.

The organism that is killing the American chestnut by the wholesale, is a foreign fungus that was brought into this country on contaminated nursery stock from Asia a few years ago. In its native home the fungus was not as deadly as in America for the trees had acquired a sort of immunity. Many foreign varieties of chestnut are being imported now with the hope of finding a blight-resisting kind to replace the ones destroyed. While none have yet been found that are wholly immune a hairy Chinese variety and a Japanese chestnut have shown some natural resistance.

The American chestnut supplies half of the tanning extract used in this country in the manufacture of leather, and with the species facing extermination, a new economic problem must be met, it is stated.

MUSSOLINI HAS HYPOBULIA SAYS PSYCHIATRIST

The mind of Italy's dictator, Mussolini, was measured by psychiatric standards at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association and was summed up in one word -- hypobulic. The mental analysis of Mussolini was made by Dr. Edward E. Mayer, well known psychiatrist of Pittsburgh, and was used in illustrating his remarks on hysteria.

Mussolini is not acting by reasoning will power, but by hypobulic will, he said. This type of will was defined as a blind sort of will that is not prevailed upon by persuasion or logical arguments.

"This hypobulic will exists in well persons as an essential and primary constituent of the will, linked with the purposive will to make the normal will," said Dr. Mayer.